

We want to commend Senator Jeff Denham and the Valley delegation for their work to ensure our fair share of funding in this year's infrastructure bond. The flooding this week in Central Valley could not be a more vivid demonstration that the San Joaquin Valley must get its fair share of any state infrastructure bond which goes forward to voters.

A new surface water storage facility on the Upper San Joaquin River may, in fact, have helped prevent the flooding this week.

But improved water storage for the Central Valley is just one issue that the administration and the legislature must deal with in developing California's infrastructure to serve the state's future needs.

The Central Valley will grow by over 37 percent between now and 2020; this is a faster growth rate than the state as whole in the same period of time. To serve its future needs, the Central Valley must see improvements to Highway 99, additional water storage facilities and the construction of a High Speed Rail System. While these issues, along with Regional Water Plans, may be seen as simply Valley issues, they are a microcosm of the issues that demand action by the administration and the legislature to rebuild California's infrastructure so the state serves its citizens into the 21st Century and beyond.

This week it was flooding in the Central Valley. Everyday Highway 99 draws closer to dangerous gridlock, further highlighting the need for High Speed Rail, in addition to funding for improving Highway 99.

Now is the time for the Governor and the legislature to act on these important issues.

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